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BEATTIE GOVERNMENT TARGETS GRAFFITI

The Beattie Labor Government has allocated \$9,558 to the Ipswich Community Youth Service's Burning Art Project to implement a three-pronged attack on graffiti, Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan announced today.

Ms Nolan said the funding was part of \$100,300 allocated to projects statewide for graffiti reduction and prevention projects.

The Burning Art Project will focus on three things; graffiti prevention, positive aspects of graffiti and education and prevention of solvent abuse in the Ipswich area.

Ms Nolan said there was substantial evidence that giving young people the chance to produce graffiti art in appropriate places lessened the rate of graffiti vandalism on spaces like railway stations and people's front fences.

"Sometimes graffiti is just plain vandalism which offends the community and should not be tolerated," Ms Nolan said.

"At other times, however, you've got young people who have great artistic talents and no real way of finding an outlet to express those talents.

"This is the sort of thing we've encouraging with this project.

Through Burning Art, young Ipswich people who are prepared to get involved in the project will learn better art skills and all the community will benefit from their art.

Minister for Communities, Disabilities and Seniors Warren Pitt said 14 organisations across Queensland would receive up to \$10,000 each for projects ranging from education and rapid response and removal programs to street parades and street art projects.

"The organisations to receive funding will not only clean up the visual impact of graffiti but will help put in place community-based strategies to help address the cause of graffiti," Mr Pitt said.

"I commend the Ipswich Community Youth Service for its initiative in developing a project that meets local needs in terms of tackling graffiti."